HF Happenings 749

Amateur Data Interchange Format

The Amateur Data Interchange Format (ADIF) is 21 years old. Most people will recognize ADIF, and associated "ADI-files" as the means by which contest logs are exported from contest logging programs and into general purpose logging programs, log analysers, OQRS systems, and the like. ADIF has evolved from a relatively simple way to encode QSO information so that it can be read or written by computer programs to the recent ADIF 3's ADX files that use XML for self-describing data formats. People involved in the standard as producers or consumers of ADIF data participate in the Yahoo ADIF Developers Group https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/adifdev/info, while ADIF standards are published at http://adif.org/

OQRS

Online QSL Request System. An OQRS system tries to make obtaining QSL confirmations easier by providing a paperless method for requesting them. Typically, a website is set up to gather QSO information by a web form, or by ADIF log upload. That QSO information is matched against a station's logs, and at the requesting station's preference, paper QSL cards or electronic confirmations are generated.

Intrepid Spirit Award

The Intrepid-DX Group (www.intrepid-dx.com) has announced that Sebastien "Seb" Poulenard, F5UFX is the recipient of the annual Intrepid Spirit Award, made in memory of James McLaughlin, WA2EWE/T6AF (killed in Afghanistan on 27 April 2011). The award - presented at the International DX Convention (Visalia) on 21 April - recognizes Sebastien's "outstanding efforts" and "unselfish acts" - as well as his "pursuit of operating excellence in assembling the best operators available" - to activate the "challenging and much needed entities" of Juan de Nova Island (FT4JA) and Tromelin Island (FT4TA) "on behalf of a

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You can now download your copy of HF Happenings from www.sarl.org.za/hf_happenings.asp

April
to 9 April - Stars of Sandstone, Ficksburg
1 - **RaDAR Challenge**; April Fools Day
6 - van Riebeeck Day; **SARL 80 m QSO Party**
8 - **Autumn QRP Sprint**
8 to 15 Klein-Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees
11 to 17 - Pesach
13 - Holy Thursday
14 - Good Friday
14 to 16 - Slow festival, Sedgefield
15 - Two Oceans Marathon
16 - Easter Sunday
17 - Family Day
18 - **World Amateur Radio Day**; All Schools open
21 - RAE Registration closes
21 to 29 joBerg2C
22 - SARL Noise Floor Workshop
23 - **ZS4 Sprint**
24 - Isra and Mi'raj; Closing date for articles for the May Radio ZS
24 to 30 - AfrikaBurn, Tankwa Karoo
27 - Freedom Day
27 to 30 - Karoo Food Festival,

grateful Global DX Community".

The 2016 CQ World Wide DX SSB Contest

Results of the 2016 CQ World Wide DX SSB Contest have been posted (PDF) https://www.cqww.com/results/2016_cq_ww_dx_ssb_line_scores.pdf. If you entered the contest, did you look at your Log Check Report (LCR)? Thank you for submitting a log in the 2016 CQ WW DX SSB Contest. Your log checking report is below. We believe it is helpful for

participants to receive information on how their log was scored.

Log checking details for CQ WW SSB 2016:

7,573 Logs total

3,458,751 QSOs total

2,862,882 (82.8%) QSO checked against another log

2,780,827 (97.1%) QSO checked good when checked against another log

45,296 (1.6%) Busted calls

8,582 (0.3%) Busted exchange

28,177 (1.0%) Not in log

Average Score Reduction for all logs: 12.1% (Median 8.0%)

Average Error Rate for all logs: 3.7%

It's impressive that 83% of all QSOs were cross-checked, and the overall error rate was just 2.9%.

In refreshingly candid language, Doug Zwiebel, CQWW Director, posted an entry https://www.facebook.com/cqwwdx/posts/10155292676654292 on the CQWW Contest Facebook Page https://www.facebook.com/cqwwdx/, regarding disqualifications due to self-spotting and observance of the rule regarding recording the entire contest effort there is an expectation of being a top scorer. According to Doug, over 75 SSB entries were disqualified in 2016 due to self-spotting. The bottom line is self-spotting or mutual spotting collusion between operators or stations is not allowed, and can and will result in "strong sanctioning actions." (via Twitter)

How's that microphone working out for you?

Different audio qualities are needed for different tasks, and you may find that by adjusting your audio chain for the characteristics required for contesting will result in more contacts. Jim, K9YC, published an article last year in *NCJ* entitled "Clean, Punchy, Competitive Contest Audio Without Splatter" that is also available on his website http://audiosystemsgroup.com/ContestAudio.pdf (PDF).

Print working Transistors

Researchers in Ireland have demonstrated the ability to print working transistors out of nanomaterials http://exactlyscience.com/archives/11928.html. The goal is to be able to inexpensively incorporate working circuitry into objects like food and beverage containers, clothing, paper products, and the like. The effort uses particles including graphene, boron, and tungsten compounds suspended in liquid to construct the active devices.
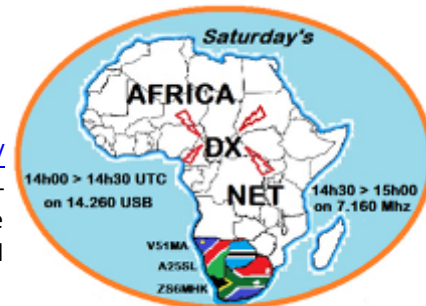
N1MM for RTTY Contesting

Bud, AA3B, talked about using *N1MM for RTTY Contesting* at a recent Frankford Radio Club meeting https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0vTC4Ngzadw. In addition to addressing N1MM's integration with the MMTTY program, he discussed appropriate macros for RTTY contesting, and compared RTTY frequency usage in general versus during RTTY contests. One encouraging observation made is the doubling of CQ WW RTTY contest participation since 2006.

Cradock

28 - School Holiday

28 and 29 Prince Albert Town and Olive Festival

29 and 30 - Haenertsburg Food, Wine and Beer Festival; Pringle Bay Village Festival

30 - Knysna Motor Show

May

1 - Workers Day

5 and 6 - Riebeek Valley Olive Festival

5 to 7 - SARL National Convention

6 and 7 - AWA Valve QSO Party

7 - Ngwenya Country Market

14 - Mothers day

19 to 21 - Dayton Hamvention

20 - Radio Amateur Examination; Wakkerstroom Natural Fibre Handcraft Fair

21 - ZS3 Sprint

25 - Ascension Day; Closing date Radio ZS June

25 to 27 - Handcraft Exhibition, Fish Hoek

26 - Start of Ramadan

26 to 28 - SA Bike Festival, Kyalami

28 - SARL Digital Contest

31 - Republic Day; Shavuot

Removing power-line buzz

The Four States QRP Group has introduced the new BUZZ-KILL kit for removing power-line buzz from an audio channel http://www.4sqrp.com/buzzkill.php. The BUZZ-KILL is a comb filter - a notch at 60 Hz and every harmonic of 60 Hz. According to the website, "This is a compact, flexible design that can be used as a stand-alone outboard unit, or it can be easily integrated into an existing receiver (see manual for details). Its onboard audio amp can drive a speaker or headphones. Gain is constant from 100 Hz to 5kHz, so it can be used with any CW, SSB or AM receiver." The circuit uses two analogue delay lines to combine the signal with a time-

shifted version of the signal, which creates a comb filter https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Comb_filter.

DSP Filter

If you're looking for a little more selectivity, you can retrofit an existing radio with an audio DSP filter from SOTABEAMS. Their LASERBEAM-VARI modules need just a single rotary encoder to provide a variable filter bandwidth of 200 Hz to 3 500 Hz http://www.sotabeams.co.uk/variable-bandwidth-filter-modules-ssb-cw/. The module is 36 mm x 36 mm and requires a supply voltage of between 5 and 15 Volts.

African DX

Botswana, A2. Nick, G4FAL, Dave, G4BUO, Nobby, G0VJG, Giles, M0TGV, Tony, G4LDL, Graham, G4FNL, Guy, G0UKN, Toby, M0TBS, Glenys, G8KWD, and Martin, M0MDR activate Botswana from April 25 until May 5 with the call A25UK. They will be active on 160 to 10 m on CW, SSB, and RTTY. QSL via M0OXO. http://www.a25uk.com/

Mail, TZ. Denis, F8DAK is QRV as TZ6BB from Bamako and is here for about 18 months. Activity is on 20 metres. QSL to home call. In addition, Jeff, TZ4AM is active from Bamako. He is active on the HF bands, and possibly on 6 metres as well. QSL to W3HNK.

Morocco, CN. Carlos, CT1QP, Helder, CT1CDP, and Antonio, CT1CDU, will be active again as CN2CL and CN2DP from Morocco from 21 April to 5 May. Until 25 April they will be active on 40 and 20 metres only (around 7070 kHz and 14175 kHz), while touring the Sahara Desert. QSL CN2DP via CT1CDP, QSL CN2CL via CT1QP.

Liberia, EL. A team of five operators is planning to be active for 3 - 4 days from Baiyah Island (AF-111, new one for IOTA), Liberia later this year. "A reconnaissance trip has been completed with vital information on this little-known island being collated". Dates, call sign and a dedicated website will be announced in due course.
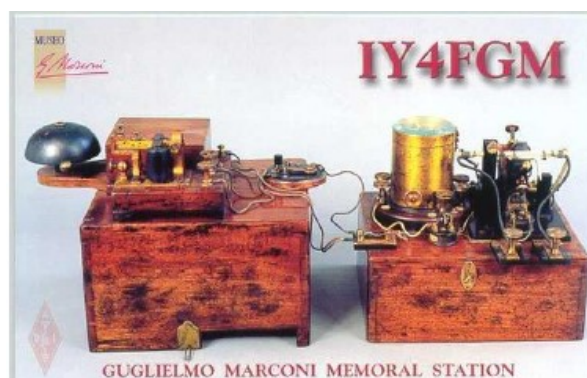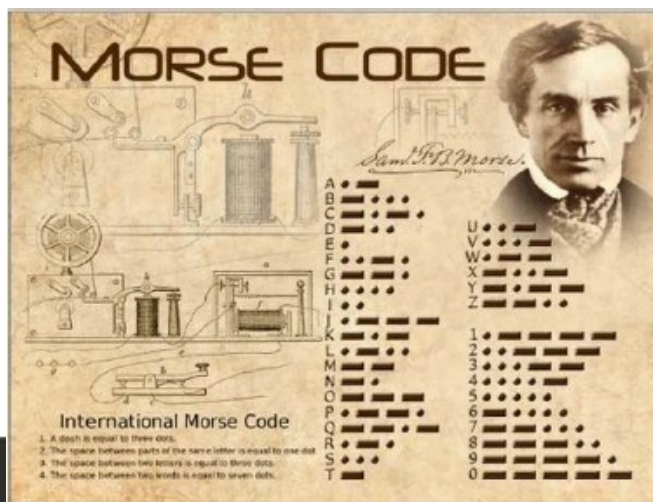
African Islands
IOTA frequencies
CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz
SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

Seychelles, S7. Ivan, LZ1PJ will be active holiday style as S79J from Mahe (AF-024), Seychelles between 2 and 10 May. He will operate CW only and will be active for SKCC (Straight Key Century Club) calls from those needing a new country". QSL via home call (direct or bureau) and possibly LOTW.

Chagos, VQ9. Jeremy, N1ZZZ will be active again as VQ9ZZ from Diego Garcia (AF-006), Chagos Islands indicatively between late April and mid-June. He will have to commute between his ship and his operating location on the island, then set up and break down each time. He will be active on 20 and 17 metres SSB and "various low power digital modes". When on the ship, he will be signing VQ9ZZ/mm. QSL via N1ZZZ and LoTW.

Morsum Magnificat now available for free download

The English language edition of Morsum Magnificat, the Morse Magazine, otherwise known as "MM," contained a vast amount of information and illustrations of interest to Morse operators, key collectors, historians, researchers and other Morse enthusiasts.

Published from 1986 to 2004, in 89 issues, with readers and contributors around the world, it covered every conceivable aspect of Morse telegraphy, past, present and future, in a truly international way.

With the permission of the copyright holder, Zyg Nilski, G3OKD, this vast resource is now available for download in PDF format, free of charge, thanks to the generosity of Lynn Burlingame N7CFO who was a reader of, and contributor to, MM.

Included in the downloads is an updated and revised version of the MM 54-page Key WT 8 Amp Worldwide Survey which has proved to be of great interest to both users and collectors of the many versions of this famous pre-war, war-time and post-war military Morse key.

MM was first published in the Dutch language, by Morse enthusiasts, Rinus Hellemons PA0BFN, and Dick Kraayveld PA3ALM. They were later joined by Tony Smith G4FAI who helped them launch the English language edition of the magazine.

After Rinus died, G4FAI produced and edited MM alone until he was joined by Geoff Arnold G3GSR, one-time editor of Practical Wireless and founder of Radio Bygones. Later, Zyg Nilski G3OKD took over as editor and produced the final 28 issues of the magazine.

Original readers of MM who have copies missing from their collection can now fill the gap with a digital download. Today's newcomers, and those who missed it first time round, now have the opportunity to discover what this unique publication has to offer them, and it costs nothing!

Free downloads of MM are available for personal use only from www.n7cfo.com/tgph/Dwnlds/mm/mm.htm

73 of the 89 issues have been posted so far. If anyone can provide any of the missing issues for scanning to complete the set please contact Lynn Burlingame at n7cfo@n7cfo.com

Copies of MM may not be downloaded or distributed for any commercial purpose. Any website offering digital downloads of Morsum Magnificat or the Key WT 8 Amp Worldwide Survey for payment is doing so without copyright permission. Anyone finding such a site is asked to send details to g4fai@btinternet.com

Tony Smith G4FAI
Co-founder of the English edition of Morsum Magnificat.

Next Week's Contests

SKCC Sprint, 00:00 – 02:00 UTC 26 April
Phone Fray, 02:30 – 03:00 UTC 26 April
CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 – 14:00 UTC and 19:00 – 20:00 UTC 26 April and 03:00 – 04:00 UTC 27 April
UKEICC 80 m Contest, 20:00 – 21:00 UTC 26 April
RSGB 80 m Club Championship, Data, 19:00 – 20:30 UTC 27 April
NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 28 April
NCCC Sprint, 02:30 – 03:00 UTC 28 April
Feld Hell Sprint, 00:00 – 23:59 UTC 29 April
10-10 International Spring Digital Contest, 00:01 UTC 29 April to 23:59 UTC 30 April
Helvetia Contest, 13:00 UTC 29 April to 12:59 UTC 30 April
Florida QSO Party, 16:00 UTC 29 April to 01:59 UTC and 12:00 – 21:59 UTC 30 April
AGCW QRP/QRP Party, 13:00 – 19:00 UTC 1 May
RSGB 80 m Club Championship, SSB, 19:00 – 20:30 UTC 1 May

ARS Spartan Sprint, 01:00 – 03:00 UTC 2 May

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HF Happenings